

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Cancelled)
2. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 4 41, wherein the support element is slidable between the operative loading position and the operative work position along a movement direction.
3. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 2, wherein the movement direction lies in an essentially horizontal plane when the support device is operating.
4. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 4 41, wherein the support element is ~~mobile~~ movable between the operative loading position and the operative work position by means of at least a translating or rotary displacement.
5. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 2, wherein the support element comprises at least one elongate arm ~~which~~ that is slidable in a guide of the base body in order to displace between the operative loading position and the operative work position.
6. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 5, wherein the support element comprises two elongate arms ~~which~~ that are slidable in guides of the base body in order to displace between the operative loading position and the operative work position.
7. (Cancelled).

8. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 7 ~~41~~, wherein the means for supporting comprise at least one body ~~which~~ that is removably constrainable to the support element for supporting said container.

9. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 8, wherein the base body is intended for directly supporting said container.

10. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 8, wherein the base body ~~which~~ is constrainable to the support element, said base body exhibits exhibiting a manual transport organ and at least one support hook for ~~the~~ said container.

11. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 10, wherein the manual transport organ is a handle.

12. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 10, wherein the base body comprises at least two support hooks for receiving the said container.

13. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 10, wherein the base body constrainable to the support element comprises a rod ~~which~~ that bears the manual transport organ and ~~the~~ said at least one support hook, the support element exhibiting supports for receiving and engaging the rod.

14. (Cancelled).

15. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 1 ~~41~~, wherein the support element is provided with at least one mechanical endrun stop for the operative loading position.

16. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 15, wherein the mechanical endrun stop is defined by a groove, ~~for example located on the said elongate arm.~~

17. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 4 41, wherein the support element is provided with at least one further mechanical endrun stop for the operative work position.

18. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 17, wherein the further mechanical endrun stop is defined by a groove, ~~for example located on an elongate arm.~~

19. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 4 41, further comprising at least one position sensor, associated to the base body, for detecting at least the operative work position of the support element.

20. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 19, wherein the position sensor is a Hall sensor.

21. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 4 42, further comprising additional sensors for weighing a container associated to the support device.

22. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 21, wherein the sensors for weighing comprise at least one measuring balance.

23. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 22 41, wherein the sensors for weighing further comprise a control balance, said control balance being a further balance, the control unit receiving a signal proportional to the weight of the container to verify that the measuring balance is working correctly.

24. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 4 41, wherein the support element further comprises a manoeuvring handle for enabling a manual displacement between the operative work position and the operative loading position, and vice versa.

25. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 4 41, wherein a loading of a container is ~~performed only~~ excluded in the operative loading position work condition of the support element.

26. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 4 41, wherein said further comprising stop means blockings a relative position of the support element with respect to the base body in the operative loading position and in the operative work position.

27. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 4 26, wherein the stop means are normally active for blocking the support element in a retracted position thereof.

28. (Cancelled)

29. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 20 22, wherein the said measuring balance for weighing is associable to a machine control unit, which is provided with a CPU configured to receive a signal proportional to a weight provided by the balance for weighing; said CPU being configured to validate said signal relating to the weight only when the support element is in the operative work position.

30-36. (Canceled)

37. (Currently Amended) The ~~device~~ apparatus of claim 4 49, wherein the stop means are normally active for blocking the support element in correspondence of the operative work condition where the support element is in a retracted position.

38. (Currently Amended) The ~~device~~ apparatus of claim 4 49, wherein the control ~~device~~ unit is of the type selected in the group comprising: an analog control device or a digital control device

39. (Currently Amended) The ~~device~~ apparatus of claim 4 49, wherein the

predetermined number is one, and wherein the control device controls the stop means to enable extraction of a single support at a time, automatically blocking the other support elements in the operative work condition where the support element is in the retracted position.

40. (Currently Amended) The ~~device~~ apparatus of claim 39, wherein the control device controls the stop means to enable another or the same support to be extracted once more, when the extracted support is returned to the operative work condition.

41. (New) A support device for containers of liquids in extracorporeal blood treatment machines, or in renal failure treatment machines, comprising:

a base body;

a support element associated to the base body, the support element being displaceable with respect to the base body between at least one operative loading position, corresponding or close to a position of maximum extraction of the support element from the base body, and an operative work condition, corresponding or close to a position of minimum extraction of the support element from the base body, the support element comprising means for hanging a container;

sensors for weighing a container fixed to the base body, said sensors for weighing comprising at least one measuring balance for weighing a container hung to the support device, the means for hanging the container and the container being configured below the measuring balance in the work condition of the support element, the means for hanging the container and the container being configured laterally of the

measuring balance in the loading position of the support element, and

a control unit for receiving from the measuring balance a signal proportional to the weight of the container, the control unit reading and validating the signal proportional to the weight of the container only in the operative work condition of the support element in which the means for hanging the container and the container are placed below the measuring balance.

42. (New) A support device for containers of liquids in extracorporeal blood treatment machines, or in renal failure treatment machines, comprising:

a base body;

a support element associated to the base body, the support element being guided and translating with respect to the base body in a horizontal plane between at least one operative loading position, corresponding or close to a position of maximum extraction of the support element from the base body, and an operative work condition, corresponding or close to a position of minimum extraction of the support element from the base body, the support element comprising means for hanging a container; and

a lower zone of a machine, the base body being fixed to said lower zone of the machine and being interposed in use between the lower zone and the means for hanging the container, the means for hanging the container being placed in use below the lower zone of the machine and the base body.

43. (New) The device of claim 42, wherein the support element comprises at least one elongated arm horizontally slidable inside a corresponding horizontal guide of the base body in order to displace between the operative loading position and the

operative work position.

44. (New) The device of claim 43, wherein the elongated arm and the horizontal guide define a telescopic structure.

45. (New) The device of claim 43, wherein the support element comprises a further arm supporting said means for hanging a container, said further arm being placed outside the guide of the base body and movable between a loading position in which the further arm is placed laterally of the base body and a work condition in which the further arm is placed below the base body.

46. (New) The device of claim 45, wherein the support element comprises a connecting portion for joining the elongated arm and the further arm, the connecting portion being laterally placed with respect to the base body both in the loading position and in the work condition.

47. (New) The device of claim 46, wherein the support element comprises two elongate arms horizontally slidable in guides of the base body in order to displace between the operative loading position and the operative work position.

48. (New) The device of claim 47, wherein the connecting portion joins together both the elongated arms and the further arm supporting said means for hanging a container.

49. (New) A supporting apparatus comprising:

a plurality of support devices for containers of liquids in extracorporeal blood treatment machines, or in renal failure treatment machines, each presenting:

a base body;

a support element associated to the base body, the support element being displaceable with respect to the base body between at least one operative loading position, corresponding or close to a position of maximum extraction of the support element from the base body, and an operative work condition, corresponding or close to a position of minimum extraction of the support element from the base body;

stop means for selectively blocking a relative position of each support element with respect to the base body, at least in the operative loading position or in the operative work position; and

a control unit controlling the stop means to enable contemporary extraction only of a predetermined number of support elements of the support devices.